



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: September 14, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

Minutes.

1. Administration.

Members in Attendance: Dan Amstutz (DPCD), John Aslanian, Beth Benedikt, Wayne Chouinard (DPW), Lenard Diggins, Ray Jones, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Corey Rateau (APD), James Stubbe, Laura Swan (Chair), Scott Smith, and Shoji Takahashi.

Members Absent: Tycho Nightingale

Members of Public in Attendance: Nathan Herpich and Joe Solomon.

The Chair provided notice regarding Remotely Conducted Meetings, referring the members to the agenda attachment entitled "Governor Charles Baker's 3/12/2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law". The Chair reviewed the meeting ground rules and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

B. Approval of July 13, 2022, and August 10, 2022 Meeting Notes.

Minutes for the Meeting of July 13, 2022 were approved.

Minutes for the Meeting of August 10, 2022 were approved, subject to a correction by Scott Smith: "7. Update: Thompson Area Traffic Calming". The first sentence should read "Scott Smith made a request to DPW to install signage on Everett Street for the existing school zone on Everett St."

C. Correspondence sent/received between August 6 and September 9, 2022.

1. Letter from the School Board to the Select Board, 6/10/22, concerning school zones.

2. Letter to the Town Manager from Dan Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner, 5/20/22, "Correspondence Regarding Traffic Calming on Huntington Road".
3. Anonymous Comment to Select Board, undated, concerning private school bus stop on Park Circle.

Corey Rateau said that the Town has received complaints about a bus picking up on Park Circle over the years. However, Arlington residents use services to attend school outside of the Town, and the bus is not likely parking illegally. Wayne Chouinard added that the gas-line repairs on Cedar Ave are now complete, and construction will not be blocking the roadway in the area.

4. Email to Select Board from Jess Leber, 08/08/22, "Request for stop signs at dangerous 4-way intersection".

Corey Rateau and Scott Smith informed TAC that there were no crashes at this intersection of Franklin St and Lewis Ave/Philips St over the past decade or more. There might be some visibility issues, but the intersection has large radii. Generally, the area is heavily parked, as there have been resident complaints about parking on both sides and blocked driveways.

Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, and Wayne Chouinard will meet onsite to assess the intersection. Wayne Chouinard has previously drafted a possible option to straighten up the intersection to be a shovel-ready project for TAC and the Select Board to approve. TAC to review and comment on the draft at the next meeting.

5. Email to Select Board from Nathan Herpich, 08/16/22, "Concerns for TAC re: Park Avenue bus stop changes".

Discussion under Section 7, below.

D. Town Day Activities.

TAC and ABAC will have a joint table at Town Day. Scott Smith will organize TAC and ABAC volunteers for helping to staff the table.

2. Public Comments (for information only, not for action).

There were no public comments.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on the agenda).

A. Wayne Chouinard provided an update from the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Road resurfacing is now complete on many roadways such as Florence Ave to Park Ave near Dallin School; Newland Rd and Blossom St near Peirce School; Pheasant Rd at Stratton School, and Oakland Ave area.

Curb ramps and ADA compliance updates along Broadway and N Union St. Also upgrading the MBTA bus stop at Broadway and Cleveland St. SRTS project for accessibility at Stratton is under review.

There is an extreme shortage of granite curbing, which is affecting construction in the Thompson School area and the construction of the new DPW Facility.

Pavement markings are scheduled including Bates Rd, River St, Medford St, Lowell St. Lake St bike symbols will be added. Notably, resins and plastics are in shortage with large price increases.

Diagnostics and repairs related to issues of traffic signals and audible signals are being made on Lake St, Medford St, Mass Ave, and Park Ave. The speed feedback sign on Lowell St is still malfunctioning.

The flashing pedestrian crossing sign at the Minuteman Bikeway/Mill St crossing is malfunctioning. Tree trimming has been requested to reduce shade to the solar panel that powers the sign.

B. Dan Amstutz provided an update from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

DPCD has a new director, Claire Ricker, who will be starting Monday. DPCD will be posting for the Economic Development Coordinator position soon.

NACTO Conference was hosted in Boston (Hynes Convention Center) earlier in September.

MassDOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project for accessibility at Stratton School is under review.

Mass Ave and Appleton St will have a public Meeting on October 18. Conceptual designs will be provided for comment.

Complete Streets Prioritization Plan with MAPC is moving forward. Presently completing the contract for technical assistance.

C. Corey Rateau provided an update from the Police Department (APD).

School is now in session. Presently, the Town is short staffed for traffic supervisors. There is a request for another traffic supervisor at Ottoson Middle School.

Community Traffic Safety Grant with InControl Driving School is now completed. Overall, participants provided very positive feedback with high levels of interest from Town residents.

Summer St at McClennan Park updating crosswalk sign to-be double sided, high visibility and reflective.

4. Update: Chestnut St

Dan Amstutz informed TAC that the Town received a Shared Streets And Spaces Grant of approximately \$140,000 to upgrade Chestnut St, which must be implemented by the end of next year.

Stantec is the consultant on the project and is working on redesigns of the roadway. The land survey showed geometry challenges of the Select Board-approved changes, necessitating a redesign. Stantec will be providing a proposal to TAC at the next meeting.

Stantec also has conducted an analysis of Mystic St and Chestnut St intersection including high-level reconstruction ideas.

5. New Business: Gibbs School

School Committee inquired with the Select Board about traffic safety at the intersection of Broadway and Rawson Rd/Foster St near Gibbs School. At present, this area does not meet the definition of School Zone, however, MassDOT is discussing possible changes in School Zones.

Laura Swan informed TAC that Fenway Market at the intersection is a destination for many students. In front of the store, there is a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign to provide visibility to pedestrians, however, there is no crosswalk on Rawson Rd.

Scott Smith, who lives nearby, said that the no parking sign is not heeded. In addition, Rawson Rd is used as a cut thru instead of River St, which contributes to heavy traffic. Some parts of Rawson Rd have limited visibility, and there have been a number of crashes at Broadway and Rawson Rd.

Dan Amstutz added that there is impaired visibility of a stop sign on Rawson Rd at Warren St due to tree branches, and he will send a photo to request tree

trimming. Corey Rateau suggested moving the stop sign before the tree or adding a stop ahead warning sign. (The stop ahead warning sign does not require Select Board approval as it is not a regulatory sign.) He also will request additional parking enforcement in the morning around school arrival and in the afternoon around school dismissal. John Aslanian mentioned that Breadboard Bakery, next door to Fenway Market, has pickup days on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday from 8am – 1pm, which might contribute to vehicle traffic at the intersection.

John Aslanian will lead the Working Group with Scott Smith and Corey Rateau.

6. New Business: Huntington Rd

Dan Amstutz provided a high-level summary of the resident complaint from March, 2020. The review has languished due to the pandemic.

Laura Swan hypothesized that the geometry of the intersection permits vehicles to turn at fairly high speed and encourages cut-thru traffic to Forest St. There is a concern for potential conflict between motor vehicles and pedestrians. Peirce School is nearby. As part of TAC's review, consider traffic counts.

Shoji Takahashi will lead the Working Group with Beth Benedikt.

7. Park Ave Corridor: Update MBTA Bus Stops

Dan Amstutz summarized that MBTA is in the process of relocating and consolidating bus stops on Park Ave, which will be upgraded for ADA compliance. The process started in spring of 2021. The Town has wanted to examine the corridor to limit service impacts on residents.

The MBTA has proposed, and the Select Board has approved, consolidating the outbound bus stops at Park Ave and Concord Turnpike and Park Ave and Cedar Ave to a single stop at Park Ave and Glenburn Rd. Nathan Herpich and neighbors have commented to the Town about the consolidation and think the bus stop should remain at Cedar Ave for a number of reasons.

The Town has found it not compelling to have the bus stop remain at Cedar Ave, and MBTA is moving ahead with the Select Board-approved plan.

Len Diggins added that the Select Board had made a change to a bus stop on the recommendation of Select Board Member John Hurd. Dan Amstutz confirmed that the bus stop at Wachusett Ave and Hillside Ave was retained following a site visit.

8. Update: Thompson Area Traffic Calming

River St and University Rd is an area of concern. Scott Smith expressed that the River St pavement markings will need to-be fully restored before assessing what else needs to-be done.

9. Update: Crosswalks

A. Parking space on Mass Ave at Town Hall Crosswalk.

Shoji Takahashi went through a Memo recommending the removal of a single parking spot immediately east of the crosswalk (northside of Mass Ave). TAC will vote on sending the recommendation to the Select Board at the next meeting.

B. Academy St and Maple St.

Ray Jones discussed with the Council on Aging about the crossing at Academy St and Maple St. Corey Rateau provided background about the request for a crosswalk, noting that it was made a few years ago by someone pushing a stroller in the area. Unfortunately, at this time, evaluating the intersection is difficult due to construction in the area.

Jeff Maxtutis concurred that the complaint was pre-pandemic. He said that he did not think vehicle speeding was an issue. One challenge is determining where a crosswalk with an ADA curb ramp could be installed.

10. Discussion: Wachusett Ave and Appleton St

Wayne Chouinard requested tree trimming. He will arrange a meeting of the Working Group.

11. Discussion: Victoria Rd and Summer St

Jim Stubbe provided a brief summary of observations and possible short-term solutions. One problem is parked vehicles limiting visibility of pedestrians entering the crosswalk despite No Parking signs. Wayne Chouinard said that DPW will try to install bollards near the crosswalk to prevent illegal parking.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.